

**George A. Crouse, Jr., First Selectman Town of Stonington in opposition to the  
elimination of tourism districts  
HB6824 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE  
30, 2017 AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE.**

Representative Urban and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is George Crouse and I am First Selectman of the Town of Stonington.

Stonington is a major tourism location. We have the Mystic Seaport and the Mystic Aquarium attracting thousands of visitors each year. Eliminating the Eastern Regional Tourism District would be a great disservice to our town's economic well-being. Two billion dollars are spent by tourists in this region. The Eastern Regional Tourism District promotes our town's economic growth through media campaigns, marketing strategies, responsive electronic media, and creating guides and themes to attract visitors. Their small staff does an amazing job. The Eastern staff can be found participating in all economic development conferences in our area. Their expertise and availability aid the town's businesses and help attract visitor's dollars that directly benefit Stonington. It would be an unwise economic decision to eliminate a service that promotes economic growth.

Thank you for giving me a chance to respectfully express my opposition to the elimination of the Eastern tourist district.